In Appomattox It's
WEST END MARKET
"Where It Cost Less To Shop"

Jamestown B

Lutrers Franks

Chuck Roast
Our Choice

MORRE
Lunch Tong
11 1-2 oz. Ca

BRUSH CREEK PEA
2 NO. 2½

E-QUALITY SALT Pl
Io

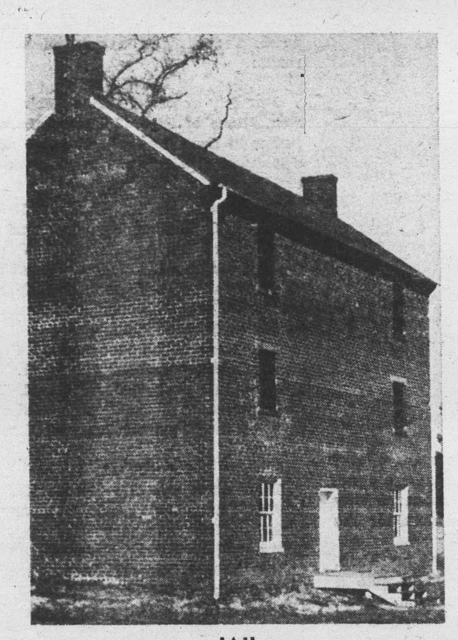
BUSH B
Blackeye Peas
Navy Beans
Pinto Beans
Great Northern Beans

Strietmann C
Fudge
11 1-2 Oz. Pa

Pillsbury
PLAIN OR SELF-RISI
10 Pound Ba

WES I END MARKE I
APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

GENERAL VIEW OF VILLAGE



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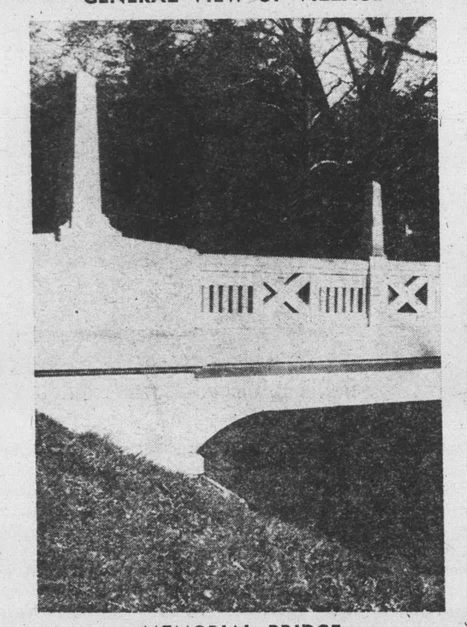


MEMORIAL BRIDGE

TAVERN

What To See At Appomattox Surrender Groun

By J. N. HASKETT
Park Historian

John Smith, of Cleveland, Ohio, while heading east on United States Route 60 notices a sign which says "Appomattox Court House, 20 miles." Deciding that he has heard of Appomattox all of his life and now that it is so near he ought to see it. After following road signs with the help of his trusty wife, Marge, he arrives in the Village of Appomattox Court House. He notices that this is now a part of Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

As they pull into the parking area they see, to their left front, a large two and a half story brick structure with the charming lines so typical of the very early 1800's. As they approach, it is identified as the **Clover Hill Tavern** which now serves as the National Park Service's temporary Museum and Information Center. This was built by Alexander Patteson in 1819. Patteson was owner and operator of the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Line. He built this central portion to serve as a residence for his large brood. To serve the hungry and thirsty travelers arriving by his stage line he built a story and a half dining room addition on the left and an immediately adjacent barroom building on the right.

Though these structures do not exist at present, they are to be rebuilt as a part of the project to restore the Village Scene as of April, 1865. The travelers spent the night in the Tavern Guest House, which is to the immediate left. Their food was prepared on the lower floor and some guests slept in the upper rooms of the Tavern Kitchen and Guest House to the left rear.

Where Is The Court House

Now the travelers ask the question which has been at the tip of their tongues since their arrival, "Where is the **Court House**?" They find that the original Court house of Appomattox County, built in 1846, stood in the traffic circle directly in front of Clover Hill Tavern. It no longer exists in that it was burned in 1892. Since the Village no longer had the prestige of being the principal stop on the Stage Line, the new court house building was erected in nearby Appomattox on the railroad. However, this wasn't what they really wanted to know; they wanted to know where the surrender occured. They are told that it happened in the McLean House 100 yards to the west of the circle. They are informed that when the books say that the surrender occurred at Appomattox Court House they are speaking of the entire village rather than the building itself. They are told that it is a custom peculiar to Virginia that the county seats originally bore the name of the county and the term "Court House."

Surrender Locale

The surrender itself was divided into several phases. First, Lee and Grant met, discussed and signed the terms of surrender in the McLean House, and then the three commissioners appointed from each army met in the Tavern and McLean House. The physical surrender of arms occurred three days later on April 12, 1865, along the road to the east of the traffic circle and, finally, the paroles were printed and issued from the Tavern.

With this general briefing they now enter the Tavern. Here they see a number of displays concerning the retreat to Appomattox, the final fighting, the surrender, and a little concerning the Village itself.

The high point of the Museum is the **Guillaume Painting**. This huge oil painting is one of the most accurate depictions of the Surrender activities. Generals Lee and Grant both are said to have sat for their portraits in this painting. In addition to the museum displays, the Smiths, Marge in particular, notice many of the structural details of the rooms; the finely carved stairs, mantels, etc., which tend to make both rooms almost classically beautiful.

Now prepared to tour the Village, the Smiths proceed to the **Tavern Guest House**. On the ground floor of this interesting little building is an unusual and interesting exhibit. This is a hand-carved miniature of the Village of Appomattox Court House in the 1880's. Though not accurate in every detail, this fine example of American Folk Art of that period does help to give a feeling of the rustic country village where this nation found peace.

Next, the visitors go to the little plain white structure which in 1865 was the **Office of John W. Woodson**, Attorney. This building furnished and opened on April 9, 1961, is furnished as a typical Law Office of that period.

The next structure is the **Plunkett-Meeks Store** and House (to be furnished and opened as of mid-Summer, 1961). This is furnished as a typical store of that period with the tremendous variety of articles carried in such a store.

Visit McLean House

Now the Smiths arrive at the reconstructed McLean House. They learn that the building had been torn down in 1893 and its materials, save for a quantity of the original bricks, allowed to decay. They are told that it was reconstructed in 1949 upon the exact same site and by the plans of the man who tore it down. These plans were also supplemented by the evidence of contemporary photographs and by information gained from individuals who had lived or worked in the house.

Entering the house the Smiths gaze for a moment at the ordinary appearing room in a middle class hom... scure Virginia community w... touched with immortality. ... that the bloodiest war in ... history ended and from whi... now reunited was to go on t... mightiest nation in the worl... ing the rest of the house ... was furnished so gracefull... nations of the people of this... ticular and Virginia as a ... Smiths now go to the **County** ... **County Jail**, a massive, ... ture, will seem far too for... such a comparatively small c... could hardly have been said ... ridden.

During their tour of the ... lage the Smiths have not... other buildings at the fringes... that these are buildings w... toric structures but which ... to the public. They are the ... **cock-Isbell House**, the Peers ... the **Kelly House**.

The Mariah Wright House ... This has been stabilized ... ation.

Visit Park

Having a little more time ... decide to visit the remainder ... They return to Virginia Ro... turn back toward the modern ... of Appomattox. Along this ro... the interesting Confederate C... taining eighteen Confederate ... Union Soldir killed in the ... here. Farther up the road ... old roadbed of the Oakville ... Church Road. It was along th... much of the final fighting ... April 9, 1865.

Several hundred yards bey... Smiths leave Route 24 and ... road to the left, at the termin...

(Continued on page

'Old' Joe Sweeny, Inventor of Five-String Banjo

By CALVIN ROBINSON
Editor, Appomattox Times-Virginian

One of the most fabulous names in American folklore is that of Joel Walker Sweeney, Appomattox Minstrel Man and inventor of the five-string Banjo.

They called him "Joe" Sweeney.

In recent weeks, a song, "Joe Sweeney," by Lucile Watson and recorded by ... Turner has become a favorite. ... the American Five-Stringer has continued for a full century and more as a ... musical instrument. Indeed, some ... it is the only musical instrument of ... portend invented in America.

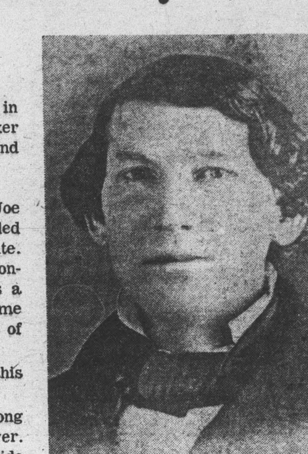
And so, let us take a look-see at this ... personality.

Joel Walker Sweeney was born along the head-waters of the Appomattox River. ... immediate spot is of world-wide ... because in 1865 the dying sobs of ... Confederacy rolled up from Richmond, ... Burkeville, Sayler's Creek, and ... ville, and on the very spot where ... lived, Gen. John B. Gordon made ... desperation fight on the morning ... Sunday, April 9, 1865, and ... is buried in a stone's throw ... Gen. Fitzhugh Lee ate breakfast ... fateful morning and made his ... as the cavalry sought to ... through."

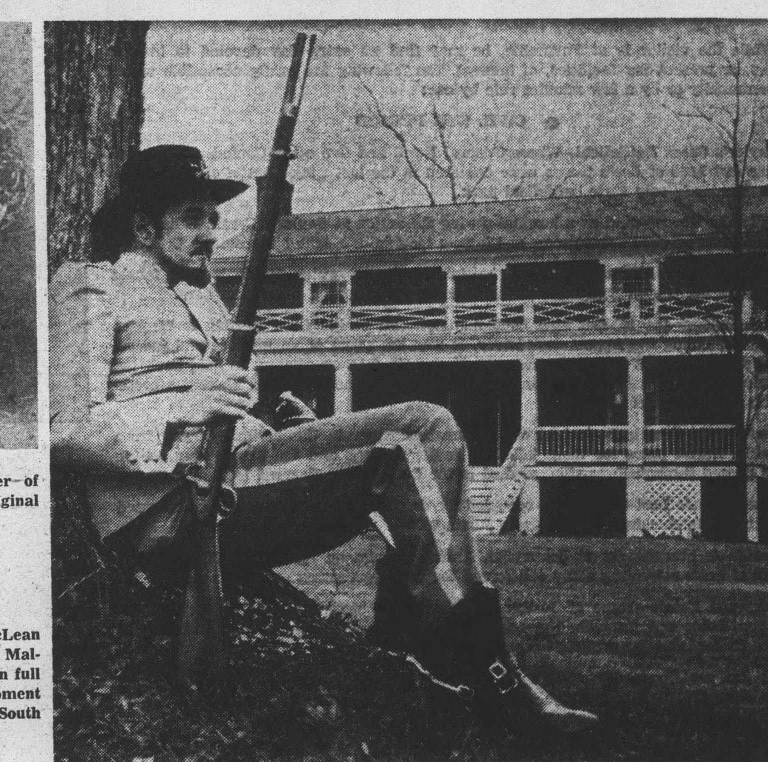
... is another story. This, rather, ... "Mr. Sweeney."

... Sweeney family was well established ... the head-waters of Appomattox ... Joel Walker was born in 1811 or ... the exact date is not known. ... owned a great plantation, and ... the Sweeney Mill. The "mill ... alongside the plantation and ... quarters, to the mill itself, which ... just right on present Route ... the site of the famed "apple ... under which Gen. Lee rested while ... to "go to meet Gen. Grant."

Joel Walker Sweeney was a "natural musician. From earliest age, he ... the violin and was fascinated by ... instrument brought over from Africa, ... the "banjeur" and was a four-... shell gourd. His father, John ... Sweeney, had been a wheelwright in Old ... ingham, but that was before Appomattox County was formed, and Buckingham and Prince Edward approached this ... It is said that at age 13, Joel ... Sweeney was known far and wide ... his skill on the "banjeur." And, al... his father and mother could not ... a time," music ran in the family.



JOEL W. SWEENEY—Inventer of the banjo, entertainer, and original black-face minstrel.



McLEAN HOUSE—Restored McLean House at dedication in 1952. Malcolm E. Mason, of Richmond, in full Confederate gear rests a moment under a tree, waiting for "The South to Rise Again!"

His brothers, Sam and Dick Sweeney, and later Robert Miller Sweeney, and later the Moon boys from Spout Spring, had an informal band.

The music of the Sweeney boys was loved. And in 1831, Joe decided that he needed a better instrument than the "banjeur." That was a very crude contraption. Toning and musical balance demanded, he decided, another string. He made it a shorter string, to give him the perfection his skill demanded. And, being skilled on the violin, he invented an instrument with five strings, and with the top controls used in a violin, and so it is generally accepted that Appomattox's Joe Sweeney invented the present "five-stringer."

What is said to be the "original" Banjo is now in the Los Angeles County Museum, in California. The writer has several pictures of this original instrument, and wishes that it could, somehow, be brought back to Appomattox.

Becomes Minstrel

About 1840, Sweeney had become a professional entertainer. He joined a small circus, and toured through Virginia and North Carolina, singing and playing. So gifted was he, that he became popular as a ventriloquist. He was called for in a wider territory, and Sweeney and his band played in the Eastern States, and he was no longer a country boy playing on an African gourd, but rather a full-fledged artist. He learned to tell folk stories, as master of ceremonies at his "concerts." "Doggerel" was what they called it—stories of the old South plantations. It is said that on his trip to Texas and California, he felt such a response to his plantation stories, that he "blacked up" for his act . . . and that he was the originator of the "black-face" made so successful later by scores of entertainers, all the way to Al Jolson and Amos 'n Andy.

By 1842, there were "no more worlds to conquer" in this country, and so Joe and his Band embarked for England. The writer accepts as top authority on "The Sweeney Story," Colonel George Collins, U. S. Army, Ret., now of St. Petersburg, Fla. Col. Collins has shown me genuine handbills and posters of: "Mr. Sweeney and His Band in Recital" in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1842. He had that sense of dignity that traditionally goes with a "Virginia Gentleman" — "Mr. Sweeney" . . .

And he won such acclaim in the British Isles, he was asked to give a "command performance" before Queen Victoria. Mr. D. A. Conner, retired Game Warden of Appomattox County, and a Sweeney family kinsman, now has in his possession the leather money belt which Queen Victoria gave Sweeney. The gold pieces are long-since gone, but their imprints in the money belt are still visible.

Old Dan Tucker

Sweeney went back to Europe in 1844.

One day the "old folks at home" listened and heard a familiar song, "Old Dan Tucker," from the hills above the Appomattox River. The tune was coming from a Banjo, and it was coming from the spot where the writer's wife's ancestors, Lillibut and Alexander Patteson had built the stage-coach stop, Clover Hill Tavern, in 1839. This is the oldest building in the present Old Court House National Historical Park. It was erected as an overnight stop on the stage-coach from Richmond to the Southwest. It was constructed of brick made on the Patteson plantation . . . one of the children's footprints can be seen today—set in one of the bricks on the front porch side. The village was Clover Hill, until 1845, when a new county was cut off from Prince Edward, Buckingham, Campbell and Charlotte, and named: Appomattox.

But the home folks recognized that "Joe" was home from his long trip overseas. And a royal welcome . . . and he lived out a decade of happy "music making." On circuit court days, along about the noon hour, everything would be brought to a halt, as the "Sweeney boys" came up the hill from the Sweeney Mill to the Old Court House, and made music.

Joe was a composer as well as a musician. Like "Lawrence Welk" today—each member of the band was a talented performer. It was NOT "hillbilly" music. It was serious folk music. I have heard friends today, on listening to genuine Sweeney music, complain that it is not "rock 'n roll" and that it is "slow and too much playing of chords." It was classical folk music.

I have in my possession a famous violin. It is autographed by Robert Miller Sweeney, one of the band. How I acquired it is a separate story, as is where I got the gem. And I also have an ancient Banjo I figure could be an original. It is right-handed, whereas the one in the Los Angeles Museum is left-handed. But I always felt that Joe could play left-handed, right-handed, standing up or laying down, backwards, forwards . . . what have you. He could sing, tell folk stories . . . he was just the top entertainer of a half century.

He died in Washington, D. C., October 28, 1860. It was a short life. But he left a heritage. His brother went on to play for Gen. J. E. B. Stuart during the War Between the States. Countless volumes mention Stuart and "Sweeney music."

Ah yes, the fabulous "Appomattox Story" will live on in American history. And always, somewhere in American History there will be a mention of Joel Walker Sweeney: Mr. Minstrel Man: The inventor of the Five-string Banjo: the man who pleased Queen Victoria; the Originator of "Black-face Minstrology" . . . and the Civil War Centennial Years would be a good time to commemorate him.

Rommel Visitor Jackson's Strategy

The famed German officer and brilliant commander, Gen. Rommel, who won acclaim in World War II, once visited Appomattox. He said he was principally interested in following the campaigns of Gen. Thomas Jonathan Neale (Stonewall) Jackson, but he also followed the Civil War battlefields all the way to Appomattox.

General Order No. 9 Last Order

Many lovers of Civil War history have wondered why the final message of Gen. R. E. Lee to his Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox, April 9, 1865, was labeled as General Order No. 9. It does not mean that Gen. Lee issued only nine orders in his service to the Confederacy. What it does mean is that a desperate re-alignment of command in the final stages of the war, gave Lee broader authority, and from February, 1865, on he had extended duties, and so began a new series of orders. No. 9 was the last one in this final series.

What To See

(Continued from page 10)

... North Carolina Monument proclaim... that North Carolina troops were "First ... Bethel, Farthest at Gettysburg ... at Appomattox."

... beyond this, upon re-entering ... 24, they see the point where **Grant's** ... **quarters** Tents were pitched for his ... stay from the afternoon of April 9 ... noon of the following day in this ...

... then retrace their steps to the ... road and soon cross the north ... of the Appomattox River via an ... **memorial bridge** which incor... the Confederate Battle Flag in its ... A few hundred yards later they ... at the place where the **Apple Tree** ... which Lee awaited Grant's reply to ... requesting a conference at which ... terms of surrender stood.

... the road in a field the Confed... Artillery was parked to await sur... At the northern edge they stop to ... tree under which Lee stopped to ... informal farwell to his troops and ... where Lee made his simple camp ... the last final days. Now they leave ... Park, taking with them a feeling of ... little village which is so indelibly in... on the face of American History.

Historic Appomattox Gave
Unity and Peace to America

TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A Growing Newspaper
In A Growing Town

A LIVE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE VIRGINIA

VOLUME 68 NUMBER 15 APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA, THURSDAY APRIL 13, 1961 Subscription Rate: $2 per year

Father

ON DEAN'S LIST

LOCAL GOLF CLUB MEETING CALLED

Burke Named

Lawson Files For Mayor

As we go to press, there are two candidates for the office of Mayor of the Town of Appomattox, and seven candidates for the six places on the Town Council.

Deadline for filing of candidacy is tonight.

Dr. S. R. Lawson, member of the Town Council at present, today filed as a candidate for Mayor. Previously, Grover E. Smith had filed for this office. Incumbent Mayor C. T. Moses, Jr., has announced that he will not be a candidate.

In order of filing, the following will seek election to the Town Council:

E. LeRoy Smith, John R. Garrett, Mrs. Calvin Robinson, J. T. Almond, Ivey Holland, T. Randolph Gilbert, Henry B. Pack.

The town election, for two year years, beginning this September, is scheduled for June 13.

Of the candidates for the Council, the last five listed above are incumbents.

BLOODMOBILE VISIT YIELDS GOOD RESULT

Appomattox County was credited with a total of 102 pints of blood, after the Red Cross Bloodmobile visit here Tuesday. There were 93 pints donated at the visitation, and 9 additional pints were credited from a recent Bloodmobile visit at Concord, the nine donors being Appomattox residents. Eleven others offered blood here Tuesday, mkaing a total of 104 who offered as donors.

R. V. Leffers, chairman for this program, was pleased at the result of the Bloodmoble visit, and wishes to thank all who aided in any way for this successful visitation.

4 P. M. BURNING LAW STILL IN EFFECT

The 4:00 P. M. burning law is still in effect, Division of Forestry Foresters reminded as the danger of forest fires mounts with warm weather.

Care by those who have had burning to do has kept fire losses low, but forest wardens caution that the most dangerous period is yet to come. Spring rains dry away quickly, the wardens say, and fires can escape if care is not taken in burning trash and brush.

The law effective from March 1 through May 15 allows burning of any material only between the hours of 4:00 P. M. and 12 midnight if the fire is in or within 300 feet of forestland or other inflammable material.

SCHEDULE OF CLUB MEETINGS FOR WEEK

Home Demonstration club meetings for next week:

Monday, April 17: Liberty Chapel Club will meet at 7:30 P. M., with Mrs. Edna Coleman.

Tuesday, April 18: Appomattox Club will meet at 10:00 A. M. with Mrs. C. G. O'Brien.

Tuesday, April 18: Spout Spring Club will meet at 2:00 P. M., with Mrs. Hunter Jamerson.

Wednesday, April 19: Wreck Island Club will meet at 2:00 P. M. with Mrs. J. P. Leitner.

Thursday, April 20: Pamplin Club will meet at 2:00 P. M. with Mrs. Edwin Fore.

LOCAL MAN RE-ENLISTS

Norfolk. (FHTNC) Shelton C. Gallier, damage controlman third class, U. S. N., son of Mrs. Annie Gallier, of Appomattox, Va., re-enlisted for six years, March 17, while serving aboard the repair ship USS Vulcan, Atlantic Fleet service and flagship of Commander Service Squadron Four, operating out of Norfolk, Va. The mission of the ship is the repair and maintenance of ships of the Atlantic fleet.

Before entering the Navy in November 1943, Gallier attended Appomattox High School.

Tranquilizer help children to overcome phobia.

... protection for the entire Community Area. All interested ... are invited and urged to ... this event.

... to make this hard money harder. It melts away just as fast as the old soft money.

-Changing Times.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Gowin were honored with a reception Sunday 26th at their home, Route 1, Appomattox ... celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Many friends and relatives were present.

Beta projects."

Harriman says Kennedy views impress Nehru.